



**Klickitat County in Unified Command
Emergency Management & Public Health**
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Media Release

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Klickitat County Update & Variance Information

KLICKITAT COUNTY – We are now at 24 positive cases with the most recent 2 added over the weekend. Current testing is done on a voluntary basis for symptomatic patients under the direction of their medical provider. Even with testing being done as needed we are still having new cases emerge. Results of tests come in fairly quickly and are provided to the Public Health Department within 24 to 36 hours from the time the sample is taken. They work closely with the resident to track close contacts and inform them of the exposure. Our residents have been very helpful in the process thus far and have done a great job at isolating themselves and using the resources in our community that are being provided to minimize any interaction such as our essential food and medication delivery program.

We are currently in Phase 1 of the Safe Start Plan. Some counties applied for a variance which allowed them to move ahead of the state and into phase 2 by meeting the state criteria. Today the Governor announced he has expanded the variance program eligibility. The link to this criteria can be found below. Although we meet the majority of the criteria we do not meet them all yet. One of the criteria we do not yet meet is the new case activity threshold. Please understand that even if we can not apply for the variance program we are still set to move forward into phase 2 along with the rest of the state of Washington as soon as safely possible.

If you are a Klickitat County business owner we encourage you to keep up to date through the resources on the state website. If you are a resident concerned about the local businesses we encourage you to reach out to them and see if they are offering any curbside options or if you can help in any way. Do what you can to support each other at a safe distance. Continue to take all precautions possible to minimize your exposure such as **physical distancing, wearing a face covering, disinfecting often** and **staying home if sick**.

County Case Tracker & Helpful Resource Links- <http://klickitatcounty.org/1187/COVID-19>
<http://klickitatcounty.org/249/Emergency-Management>

Variance Application Process & Safe Start Plan w/ Business Criteria- <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-county-variance-application-process>
<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/safe-start>

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